

Stauffer Chemical Company

EPA ID Number: NYD004859955

Other (Former) Names of Site

Cowles Chemical Company, Draycott Mills, ICI-Americas Inc., Zeneca, Inc.

Site Description

Stauffer Chemical Company is located at 4512 Jordan Road in Skaneateles, New York. The facility is approximately 120 acres in size, of which about 20 acres were used for industrial operations. The site has been used to manufacture various organic and inorganic chemicals and detergent since the mid-1940s. Manufacturing processes ceased in 1985 and the site remains inactive. Past waste management practices and releases have impacted soil and groundwater at this site, as well as, sediments in Skaneateles Creek. Area residents are served by a public water supply from a remote location. The facility has interim status under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act program and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Division of Environmental Remediation has the lead for corrective action at this site.

Site Regulatory Responsibility and Legal Instrument

The facility has interim status under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) program, but New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Division of Environmental Remediation has the lead for corrective action at this site under a New York State Order on Consent.

Permit Status

The facility filed a Part A permit application in 1980 as a hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facility and received interim status. Since 1982, the facility no longer operates as a treatment, storage and disposal facility.

Potential Threats and Contaminants

A site investigation has identified the principal sources of environmental contamination to be the landfill and the former organics plant. Samples within the landfill showed high levels of organic chemicals and metals. Primary contaminants in the organics plant include xylene, toluene, polyaromatic hydrocarbons and metals. Seepage from the landfill has been observed discharging into Skaneateles Creek. Contaminants are present in the soil,

Skaneateles Creek sediment, groundwater in the overburden, upper bedrock and the deep bedrock.

Cleanup Approach and Progress

The final Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Assessment Report for the facility was completed in August 1994. A final Feasibility Study (Corrective Measures Study) Report was completed in December 1995. The 1996 Record of Decision (Statement of Basis) indicates that the selected remedies for the site include:

- construction of a materials handling facility and water treatment system,
- construction of an onsite treatment (soil vapor extraction & bioventing system) and disposal cell as a corrective action management unit,
- excavation, treatment and disposal of approximately 45,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils and waste from an existing landfill cell that was used from the mid-1940's to 1973,
- excavation, treatment and disposal of approximately 4,100 cubic yards of contaminated soils from an area near the former organics plant,
- construction of a 5 acre clay cap and subsurface, vertical cutoff wall to isolate residual inorganic contaminants near the former organics plant,
- dredging, treatment and disposal of approximately 2,700 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from Skaneateles Creek,
- design, installation and operation of a shallow groundwater pump and treat system near the former landfill and organics plant,
- continued groundwater monitoring to evaluate effectiveness of selected remedies,
- contingency for future pump and treat actions if necessary, and
- implementation of institutional controls to limit site access and inspect, maintain and monitor ongoing remedial process operations.

A Consent Order addressing the design and construction of these remedies was signed on March 28, 1996 and the remedial design was approved in February 1999. Construction of the wastewater treatment system commenced during the summer of 1999 and was operational during the fall of the same year. Some remedial components such as the groundwater recovery system near the former Landfill will be completed by December 2004.

The facility has proposed several revisions to the March 1996 Record of Decision and additional areas of contamination have been identified. A Focused Feasibility Study (Corrective Measures Study) was submitted to address these issues. A revised Record of Decision is expected to be issued later this year which will recommend off-site disposal of excavated materials (approximately 100,000-150,000 cubic yards), demolition of the manufacturing plant, redefinition of the boundary of contamination from 120 to 68 acres, excavation of contaminated materials from several newly identified areas and most of the proposed remedies identified in the original Record of Decision.

Site Repository

Copies of supporting technical documents and correspondence cited in this site fact sheet are available for public review at:

The Town of Skaneateles Town Hall
24 Jordan Street
Skaneateles, New York 13152
Attn: Town Clerk
Telephone: (315) 685-3473

NYSDEC - Region 7 Office
615 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, New York 13204-2400
Attn: Mr. Charles Branagh
Telephone: (315) 426-7551